

THE DEADLY

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PIRATE SCANS!



image comics presents:

THE **DEADLY** **DUO**™

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HIGHBROW
ENTERTAINMENT



SOON, THE
DRUG I INJECTED
YOU WITH WILL
TAKE EFFECT AND
YOU'LL SEE ME AS
A BEAUTIFUL
WOMAN!

YOU'LL FALL
FOR ME--AS I
HAVE FOR
YOU.

AT LAST,
WE CAN BE
THE LOVERS
WE WERE ALWAYS
MEANT TO
BE.

FAT
CHANCE,
FUNNY
BOY.



KILL-CAT,
I'VE FOUND
YOU!

THAT DOES
IT, LAFF-A-
LOT!

IT'S ALL
OVER!

CURSES--
THE BOY
WONDER!



THERE.



THAT'S
TAKEN
CARE
OF.



ARE YOU
OKAY?

KILL-
CAT?

UH,
WHY
ARE YOU
LOOKING
AT ME LIKE
THAT?



WHAT'S
GOTTEN INTO
YOU? YOU'RE
ACTING
FUNNY.

I KNEW
YOU'D COME
BACK FOR
ME.



OF
COURSE I
WOULD...

HEY!

I LOVE
YOU--

I ALWAYS
HAVE.

GLEM!



OH,
YUCK!

GET
AWAY
FROM
ME!

I'M NOT
THAT KIND
OF GUY!

DON'T DENY
YOUR FEELINGS,
DARLING!

WE'VE WAITED
LONG ENOUGH...

TAKE ME
IN YOUR
ARMS.

I'M
YOURS.



WHAM!



UHHH



THIS
BETTER BE
GOOD.

LET ME
OUT OF HERE,
YOU BLASTED
IDIOT!



NOT SO
FAST, LOVER
BOY.

I DON'T LIKE
WHERE THIS
RELATIONSHIP IS
HEADED.



I'M REALLY
UNCOMFORTABLE
ABOUT ALL OF
THIS.

BEFORE I
LET YOU GO, YOU'VE
GOT TO PROMISE
ME YOU'LL KEEP
YOUR HANDS TO
YOURSELF.

I'LL PUT MY
HANDS AROUND
YOUR NECK, YOU
LITTLE CREEP!

NOW
UNTIE
ME!

WHAT
KIND OF
SIDEKICK
ARE
YOU?



NOT THE KIND YOU'RE AFTER-- APPARENTLY!

I WANT YOU TO APOLOGIZE FOR COMING ON TO ME.

WHAT?!

ARE YOU CRAZY?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

UNTIE ME, YOU LUNATIC! I'M NOT KIDDING!

PLAYING DUMB WON'T GET YOU ANYWHERE.



COME BACK HERE!!



I'D RATHER NOT HEAR ABOUT IT.



RAAAAA!



YOU'VE HAD THIS COMING FOR A LONG TIME...

STAY BACK!







NOT
THAT I
CARE...

REALLY.

I MEAN, WHAT
YOU DO IN THE
PRIVACY OF YOUR
OWN BEDROOM IS
YOUR BUSINESS.

ABSOLUTELY.

I DON'T
WANT TO PASS
JUDGEMENT.

ANYBODY
CAN DO WHAT
THEY PLEASE.

OF
COURSE.

TO
EACH THEIR
OWN.

BUT THAT
ISN'T WHAT I'M
INTO -- OTHERS
CAN DO WHAT
THEY WANT.

I'LL TAKE
GIRLS.

HMMM.

BUT YOU
SURE WERE
COMING ON TO
ME IN A...

NO, NO.
NO.

LAFF-A-LOT
MUST HAVE
DRUGGED
ME.

HI,
TOOTS!

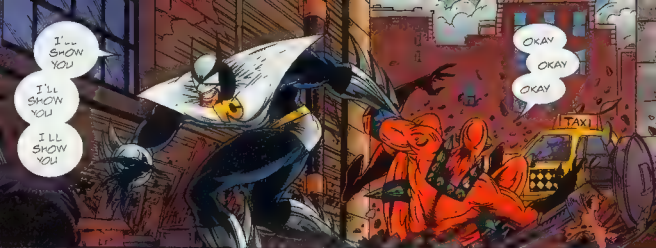
WANT TO
JOIN THE
MILE HIGH
CLUB?

BUZZ OFF,
CREEP.

I'M A
LADIES
MAN.

TAKE THAT
STEWARDESS--
SHE'S BEEN
GIVING ME
THE EYE LIKE
CRAZY.

AND FASTEN
YOUR SEAT BELT--
WE'LL BE LANDING
SOON.



I'LL
SHOW
YOU

I'LL
SHOW
YOU

I'LL
SHOW
YOU

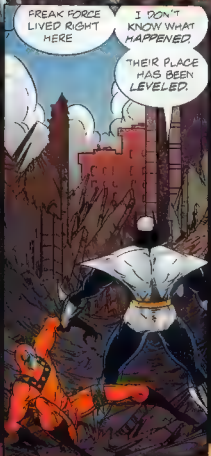
OKAY

OKAY

OKAY



GASP!



FREAK FORCE
LIVED RIGHT
HERE

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED.
THEIR PLACE
HAS BEEN
LEVELED.



TRUST ME--
EVERYONE KNOWS
DART AND I HAD
A THING GOING

ASK
ANYBODY.

HECK,
SHE'LL TELL
YOU.

IF ONLY
SHE WERE
HERE.

UH-
HUM.



I DON'T
KNOW WHY
THIS IS SO
IMPORTANT
TO YOU, KILL-
CAT.

YOU'VE
GONE TO
A LOT OF
TROUBLE.

I MEAN,
I PRETTY
MUCH BELIEVE
YOU--

I
GUESS



EVER SINCE THAT
BOOK, "SEDUCTION
OF THE INNOCENT"
INSINUATED STUFF
ABOUT SUPER HEROES
AND THEIR BOY
S.O.E.KICKS, I'VE--





I'M NOT ONE OF THOSE PANSIES YOU USUALLY FIGHT COPPER...

I'M NEUTRON BOB!

BOOMKA-BOOM

SPARE ME



NOW THAT'S THE DRAGON GETTING THE POOP KICKED OUT OF HIM!

HE'S FAMOUS IN THE FUTURE Y'KNOW

HMMPH

WELL, HE'S NOT GOING TO HAVE MUCH OF A FUTURE UNLESS WE SAVE HIS ASS!



GET 'M!

TAKE THAT.

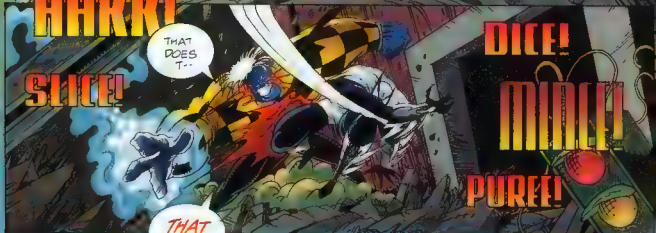
PUNCH!

AND THAT!

SLASH!

MUH?



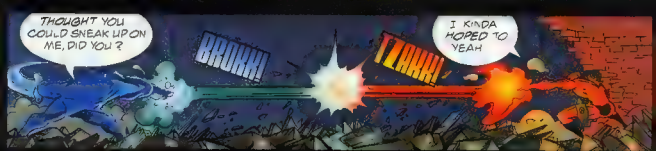


PIN-UP
BY
ANDY SMITH
AND
RANDY ELLIOTT









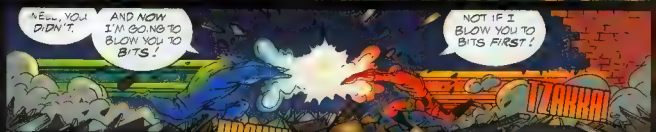
THOUGHT YOU
COULD SNEAK UP ON
ME, DID YOU?

I KINDA
HOPED TO
YEARH

NEE, YOU
DIDN'T.

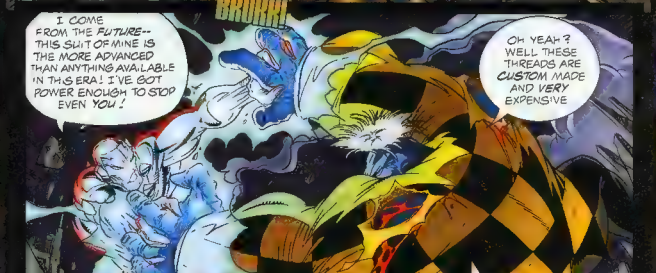
AND NOW
I'M GOING TO
BLOW YOU TO
BITS!

NOT IF I
BLOW YOU TO
BITS FIRST!



I COME
FROM THE FUTURE--
THIS SUIT OF MINE IS
THE MORE ADVANCED
THAN ANYTHING AVAILABLE
IN THIS ERA! I'VE GOT
POWER ENOUGH TO STOP
EVEN YOU!

OH YEAH?
WELL THESE
THREADS ARE
CUSTOM MADE
AND VERY
EXPENSIVE



THEY'RE A
WOOL/COTTON
BLEND THAT'S BOTH
BREATHABLE AND
COMFORTABLE IN
ANY WEATHER.

AS FOR MY
POWER--

THAT'S
ALL ME--NO
ADDITIVES.



AND THAT
CAN'T BE TAKEN
AWAY OR
BUSTED.

CAN YOU
SAY THE
SAME?

SURE
I CAN

IT JUST
WOULDN'T BE
TRUE, THAT'S
ALL

HERE'S A
LITTLE TRICK YOU
MIGHT HAVE
TROUBLE DUPLICATING
-- I CAN FLY!

WHAT'S IT
-- LOOK LIKE?
-- I'M DRAGGING
YOU THROUGH
SIGNS, BUILDINGS
AND ALONG THE
GROUND

THE GOAL IS,
AS YOU MIGHT
EXPECT TO KNOCK
YOU UNCONSCIOUS
BY DRAGGING YOU
INTO ENOUGH HARD
STUFF

OOOH--
HERE COMES
A BIG ONE!

OUCH!

OW!

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!

OW!
OW! OW!
OW!

OW!

OW!

OW!

OW!

OW.

BA-

OOOOO



THAT
OUGHT TO
DO IT!

BOB?

FWUMP!



FALL
DOWN, OO
BOOM.

WHAT THE
HELL IS
GOING ON
HERE?



KILL-
CAT!

I SHOULD
HAVE KNOWN.



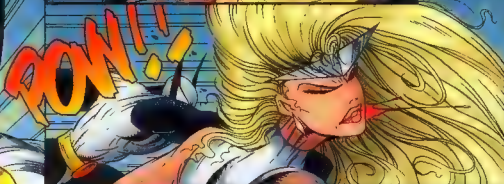
ARE YOU
OKAY ?

KILL-
CAT ?

UH.



WHY ARE
YOU LOOKING
AT ME LIKE
THAT ?



POW!!!



KILL-CAT..

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!

OHMYGOSH.

WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
YOU ?



I THOUGHT YOU
WERE SOMEBODY ELSE--
I MEAN--OF COURSE
YOU'RE YOU...NOT THAT
YOU DON'T LOOK TERRIFIC,
YOU DO, IT'S JUST.

WELL BEFORE
IT SEEMED THAT
I WAS UNDER
THE INFLUENCE
OF, THAT IS,
LAFF-A-LOT WAS
ME BELIEVE
I SAW

HOW
CAN I
PUT
THAT S.?

I HAVE A
SUGGESTION,
WHY DON'T YOU
PUT IT UP..



WHERE
S HE?

WHERE
IS HE?

YOU MUST
BE DART--
KILL-CAT'S
TOLD ME ALL
ABOUT YOU.

OH YEAH?
WELL DON'T LISTEN
TO H.M.

OUR RELATIONSHIP
IS ALL A FIGMENT
OF HIS WARPED
IMAGINATION!

HE'S AN
OBSESSED
LUNATIC WITH
BIZARRE
FANTASIES!

BUT... BUT...

LOOK, IT'S
TIME YOU WOKE
UP AND SMELLED
THE COFFEE--I
COULD NEVER
STAND YOU!

DON'T LISTEN
TO HER, KID--
SHE'S LYING.

WE HAD A
THING GOING
ON, I SWEAR!

IN YOUR
MIND,
MAYBE

NOT IN
ANY REALITY
I'M FAMILIAR
WITH.

TAKE
HIM AWAY,
BOYS



I WOULDN'T
TOUCH HIM FHE
WERE THE LAST
MAN ON EARTH.



WHAT ABOUT
ALL THOSE CASES
WE WENT ON
TOGETHER?

WHAT ABOUT
THOSE NIGHTS
WE...

YOU CHASED
AFTER ME LIKE
A LOVE-SICK
PUPPY!

I TOOK
THE JOB IN
CHICAGO
TO GET AWAY
FROM YOU!



BUT...
BUT... WHAT
ABOUT...?

LET'S GET
OUT OF HERE,
BABE

WHAT'S
THAT?

JUST TRY
AND STOP
ME



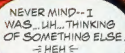
SEE YOU LATER. IT WAS NICE TO MEET YOU.

LIKEWISE.

I'M SORRY YOU NEVER FIND OUT WHERE YOU CAME FROM?!

WHAT?!!

OOOPS!



NEVER MIND--I WAS...UH...THINKING OF SOMETHING ELSE.
-3 HEH -

GREAT TO SEE YOU GUYS AGAIN.

ANY TIME YOU'RE IN THE MOOD TO BUST SOME MORE HEADS--

AT LEAST THAT'S SOMETHING.

IF I **NEVER** SEE YOU AGAIN, KILL-CAT, IT WILL BE TOO SOON.

GET OUT OF MY LIFE.

HAVE MERCY ON THE POOR GUY! HE'S ENCHANTED BY YOUR BEAUTY. CAN YOU BLAME HIM?

HECK, LOOKING AT YOU MAKES ME PRETTY WEAK IN THE KNEES, MYSELF.

SHUT UP, BARBARIC.

SHE'S NUTS ABOUT ME, KID.

I DON'T THINK SO, K.C., BUT I'M CONVINCED THAT YOU'RE NUTS ABOUT HER.

MMM, NO NEED FOR YOU TO BE NERVOUS.

YOU'RE PRETTY CUTE.

WHAT DID I DO? WHAT DID I DO?

FIND YOUR OWN GIRL!

PUN!

KITTY LETTERS

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Welcome to The Deadly Duo #21 This tale was originally supposed to be the final issue of the previous DD mini-series but through some wacky mix-up it got nixed. In any case, here it is at last. See how it was seamlessly worked into present continuity? Pretty nifty, eh? This takes place before *The Savage Dragon* #20, shortly after the last issue of *Freak Force* and before the first issue of *SuperPatriot: Liberty & Justice*. I'm not sure how it fits in with *Star* just yet.

In any case, here's what you had to say about The Deadly Duo #1...

Dear Erik, John, Gary, Chris, Reuben, Antonia, I.H.O.C., and Josh,

Do you ever wonder exactly what your faithful fans do while they write awe-inspiring letters? Well, I'll tell you what I do anyway. It's 2:40 am on Saturday night/Sunday morning and I'm currently watching the Beavis and Butt-head Marathon (which I've been watching since 10:30 pm). I've eaten three helpings of hamburger helper stuff and three potatoes, and I've drunk half a pitcher of tea. Between trips to the bathroom I've been writing letters to comics. Living out in the country, where all is quiet, and not having many friends that are home (because they have lives and/or a driver's license) can get boring, so I decided to bug you guys.

When talking to people who are the typical Marvel fanboy, or reading one of the critics who say that Image comics are nothing more than flashy art, it makes me wonder, "What the hell have these idiots been reading the last year and a half? Have they been reading the Image comics of high quality that I've read and been entertained by?" I mean with stories like *Dragon: Blood & Guts*, *Wildcats*, *Groo*, *Gen-13*, *TSD* and *Team 7* how could anyone possibly believe that an Image comic is nothing but a lot of crossovers with irrational characters? Then you went and stomped all over my point with the *Deadly Duo*.

Sure, the *Deadly Duo* is senseless battles with pointless crossovers, but it's also fun senseless battles with pointless crossovers. I have to agree with Christopher Roesler's point about Kill-Cat being very delusional. If I was *Spawn* I would have taken Kill-Cat, strapped him up, gotten a nail gun and nailed his right nut to the wall.

Anyway, John Cleary's art worked perfectly with this ridiculous adventure, although I do miss Andy Smith's art. Hmm...Andy Smith takes *Barl Sear*'s style, Cleary takes *McFarlane*'s style...what's next, *Scott McDaniel*? By the way, I'm watching *Maxx* episode #4...speaking of cartoons, when will the *Savage Dragon* cartoon appear on USA and at what time?

One last kinda' cheap note: It's July and my birthday's on the 28th. Go ahead, wish me a happy birthday...aawwww...thanks! Just knowing that you'll print all my letters in the future is enough of a present for me. Anyway, before I go I just wanted to remind you guys how much we appreciate all the crap you guys go through in order to get these comics out. I love you people...

Christopher
(I'll do anything to get a letter printed)
McLunkin
Timmonsville, SC

Happy birthday, Chris. The Savage Dragon cartoon will be on in October sometime. I'll let everybody know exactly when it's running when somebody tells me! Glad you liked the

first issue of the new mini-series— tell your friends. As for these dense dim-bulbs who dis Image comics— our harshest critics have never read our books— what do they know? Those that read Image comics— swear by Image comics!

Kitty Litter,

At last, the new *Deadly Duo* mini (damn) series has hit the shelves! I was highly anticipating the return of KC and the Kid. The good books are always the ones it takes forever to come out! However, I am sorry to say the villain for "this" series' first ish sucked! He was just plain dull and please forgive me, a tad bit "unoriginal". There have been way too many body-splitting heroes and villains already. Sorry, that has got to be the first "negative" thing I've ever said about a Highbrow title. Not a bad record at all I'd say.

The appearance of *Spawn*, whether calculated to raise sales or not, was pretty cool. And by the way, since Todd McFarlane doesn't do thought balloons for him in his own mag, how do we know that Al Simmons isn't in fact sporting ladies undies beneath those chains of his, eh? I like how this new series is going to have a rotating guest-star in each issue, thus giving John Cleary a showcase in which to draw his version of each character.

Kill-Cat rules! Although, enough with the Dark Knight jokes already. He's clearly funny enough on his own with all of his idiosyncrasies and neuroses. Now there's the sign of a great superhero today: mentally unbalanced, funny as hell, with no compunctions whatsoever about kicking ass now and asking questions later! All hail the mighty Highbrow!

Matt Nickle
Hermosa Beach, CA

Sorry if Fusion didn't send you, Matt. How do you like Neutron Boy?

Dear Mr. Larsen,

I'd like to be able to say good things about the newest *Deadly Duo* #1, but I'd rather be honest about it. Oh, it was well-drawn and light and goofy, but the writing has too many holes and forced plot points for my taste. I was surprised to find it was written by yourself and not a "stand-in", as your writing is usually very cohesive.

Upon hearing my impending complaints, you might decide that I'm being overly critical, but I didn't search for these "errors", they pretty much stuck out at me...

1. What the hell is Kid Avenger doing at the top of page four? It looks like he's just sitting there only so that Kill-Cat would look over, see the assassination, and thus further the plot (and really, what woman takes a bath in a room that has a window directly overlooking an alley with bums in it? After reading this I hung out in every alleyway in town and not once got an eyeful).
2. On page nine, Kill-Cat says that the Kid didn't see Fusion at all, yet the boy blunder identified him on the previous page.
3. The homeless fellow that Fusion is hired to kill is located in an alley directly behind the Jerry Rivers Show? Not only is that incredibly forced, it doesn't give Fusion much of an alibi.
4. Fusion is stopped by a fire extinguisher? I don't understand the logic (even comic book logic) behind that one.
5. The subtle Batman references in the previous mini-series were well done, but in this comic you achieved Batman overload! The only thing I could come up with to explain them all is you got tired of everyone comparing

KITTY LETTERS

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Kill-Cat to Batman and decided to saturate the parallels so that in future issues you could go on without readers bringing up more Batman references.

There are even more picky complaints that I could bring up, but I have a feeling that if I don't shut up right now I'm going to have serious damage inflicted upon my person.

Christopher Roesler
Sparks, NV

One of my biggest enemies of late has been time—it's simply impossible to do everything that needs to get done in a day between *The Savage Dragon*, the cartoon show, *Freak Force* and *Deadly Duo*—eventually something had to give. That something was DD #1. When I was falling so far behind I called on my old pal Gary Carlson to help write a plot for the first issue. I told him a few plot points—told him about the villain and what needed to be accomplished and let him run with it. The end result wasn't entirely satisfactory to either of us, as it turns out. But there wasn't time to fully fix all of the plot threads that escaped us. I'll give it my best effort...

- 1: He was recovering from ralphing.
- 2: Kill-Cat was over-reacting to the Kid's prattling. Of course he knew that Kid was there and did identify the bad guy. He even said so in the previous panel.
- 3: Fifty million viewers watching him on live TV is one hell of an alibi. All he had to do was stay in plain view the entire time. And Spawn alley was down the street a ways—their battle brought them closer together.
- 4: The Wicked Witch was stopped by a bucket of water in the Wizard of Oz. Sometimes the solution isn't one you'd expect. (Besides, if we set it up you'd see it coming).
- 5: Kill-Cat is trying to pull off what Batman has in Gotham. He perceives a rivalry between the two but in reality the caped crusader doesn't even know he exists. Kill-Cat reads a lot into things and imagines himself having a far-greater effect than he actually has.

Dear Erik, John and Co.:

So far *Deadly Duo II* is even better than the first mini-series (if that's possible). John Cleary's art is as always incredible, impressive, and fun. The planned line-up of guest stars and guest writers is also incredible. I'm especially looking forward to the Duo's dealing with Riptide and Grunge. This mini-series looks like a lot of fun and is going to ease the pain I felt about *Freak Force*'s imminent cancellation.

I'd also like to second Mr. Beemer's notion that the *Deadly Duo* become an ongoing series. I know I would buy it—especially if Mr. Cleary continued to do the artwork and the Duo continued their interesting interaction with other Image characters. I think that using rotating writers would also work. It would make the book like that one Batman book (*Legends* or maybe *Shadow of...*)—only with a sense of humor.

Anyway, please keep up the good work. And good luck with the upcoming Vanguard mini-series (*Vanguard: Strange Visitors*), another title I'm looking forward to. The Star mini-series and *SuperPatriot: Liberty and Justice* are also really fun.

In closing let me just say thanks for another great comic.

Chris Lett
Dayton, OH

P.S. Will Star, Bloodwolf, or anyone from *Freak Force* be appearing with the Duo anytime soon?

Members of *Freak Force* appeared in this very issue—how's that for service?

Dear Erik,

I won't sugarcoat it. I'm no big fan of copycats. In fact, I get downright fired from seeing some new kid on the block pop up with a style of artwork that resembles the work of an established artist beyond the point of "healthy influences". Sure the excuse for copying the style of a talented and great artist is that it's supposed to be a tribute to the original artist's talents and achievements, but I won't buy that. Paying a tribute to one who has influenced you should always be done through breaking the field with your own distinct style, not that of somebody else who's established and all.

Therefore, I'm not really happy with the way this book's new artist John Cleary has been using a sort of McFarlane rip-off style on this premiere issue of the second *Deadly Duo* mini-series. Of course, this criticism is by no means meant to be personal, for I'm sure John is one helluva swell guy, considering an equally swell guy like you, Erik, is working with him. But still, professionally speaking, I'm not fond of his McFarlane-esque artwork. Apart from that, the issue's action scene near the end of the story was portrayed somewhat confusingly, with the layout being especially hard to decipher.

On the other hand, I found the presented story to be extremely entertaining, in that it was an original idea to have two Spawns and two Fusions running around in the book, each of them fighting each other, with Kid Avenger being hopelessly caught up in-between. Exciting, enjoyable and funny stories like these seem to have become the standard for any *Deadly Duo* story, and to be honest, I wouldn't want it any different. As I've said before, off-beat superhero comic books like *Deadly Duo* are getting scarce these days, and it's assuring to see you are willing to fill that gap with some fine mini-series coming out under the Highbrow imprint. Particularly with *Freak Force* almost gone, it's a gap in desperate need of filling.

Overall, this first issue should have gotten a rating of "extremely good", but because of the artwork, it will have to settle with "pretty good". Still, I'm looking forward to the next three issues. That is, if you don't change your mind about the number of issues once more, turning this mini-series into five issues. Or three. Or seven. Or...you get the point.

Olav Beemer
The Netherlands

Yep.

Incidentally, Todd McFarlane doesn't feel quite as strongly as you do regarding John's work. He had him draw a six-issue mini-series, a comic for his toy line and had John help him ink his Image-X comic, *Cyberforce*! Now, if the guy who was John's inspiration can be so encouraging to him, the rest of us can at least give the fellow a second look—what do you say?

Dear Erik, Josh & Co.,

Who...a comic featuring Spawn that was not only readable but highly enjoyable to read as well! Did Hell freeze over and nobody told me or something?

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I honestly had my doubts as to whether or not the second DD series could equal the first in quality. So far, so good. I like John Cleary's work a lot. That opening splash is suitable for framing. The biggest difference 'twixt his work and Andy Smith's (sorry, John, but comparison is the way of letterhack life) is that Kid Avenger looks like more of a smart-ass, but that keeps with his character, so it's a good thing. John will do fine.

As for the story, I can't remember the last time a funny-book produced such a consistent chorus of belly-laughs. This was so funny, I soiled myself. Really. I wouldn't jerk you around here.

Fanboy stupid question time:

1. How could Kid Avenger puke without making a mess? I mean, you once told me that there were protective force fields around his armor's mouth and eyes to shield him from the radiation of his eral
2. Do you guys know something we don't about Buicks and the quality thereof? (Page 3, last panel)
3. Why was the real Spawn sans-mask?
4. Why does this follow-up mini have the exact same namesake as its predecessor? (Case-in-point/free plug: SuperPatriot, and SuperPatriot: Liberty and Justice.) Jeez, guys! No sooner do we finally lay the whole twin TSD #13 clerical nightmare to rest...
5. From the ThisJust-Occurred-To-Me Dept.: In the infamous Keown (hauk...puhl) lawyer letter, why did they refer to your book as "The Dynamic Duo?" Damn, they know less about comics than Dale does!

The rotating creative team sounds good on paper... well, to be honest, on paper, it sounds like a recipe for a migraine. Unless I misinterpreted something, you, Erik, will skip #2, right? No problem here. Tom and Mary are doing a bang-up job on Star, so I don't mind them stopping by for #4. The only question mark for me is #3. No offense, but I don't know Jeff Mariotte from Adam...or Eve, for that matter. But hey, I'll give him a shot. I know that you wouldn't leave us with this guy if he wasn't damn good. But if any future DD issues have just the slightest fraction of the laughs and fun generated by the previous ones...I'll really be pissed! You've created a bona fide standard here, people! Uphold it! I'll be watching!

Until that police sketch-artist guy finds work on Park Avenue, all hail Highbrow!

The Vegas Voyeur,
Harry Simon

- 1: What good is a force field if you can't shut it off? It has to allow stuff in and out to some extent—he has to eat after all.
- 2: No comment.
- 3: He does that sometimes.
- 4: No good reason that I can think of other than since it isn't one continuous story there wasn't a good subtitle that occurred to me.
- 5: They weren't paying much attention, apparently. I wonder if I'd promised them that I would never use Pitt in a book called the Dynamic Duo if I could have gotten away with using him here? (Hey—I can dream can't I?)

Dear Highbrow,

Regarding the new Deadly Duo series, I have both positive and negative responses. First the good news: I laughed, HARD. The send-ups on "obvious plot point dialogue" (they were send-ups, right?), Spawn appearance, and talk show scenes were great fun.

On the negative side, John Cleary needs to work on his depiction of facial expressions and character stance.

Way too many grimaces, crouches, etc. Anybody I know who had their brows worked up as much as these characters would've passed out from severe tension long ago. Also, the panel transitions were a bit jumpy and inconsistent. I have no objection to a fast-paced story, I just don't like the feeling I'm being jerked along.

All in all, #1 was a mixed bag. You still have a fan of the character and series, but I sincerely hope certain aspects improve. Thanks for your time!

John Ellis,
Virginia Beach, VA

P.S. A certain company (whom I shall never write to again) printed my full address without my permission. Since then, people who I don't know have been calling me up, which disturbs me so I hang up. Thank you for never being so thoughtless as to do that in your books, Mr. Larsen. You have my sincere gratitude.

You're certainly welcome. I stopped printing full addresses at the first sign of trouble.

Dear Erik,

The Deadly Duo #1 was a hilarious start to the second mini-series. I haven't laughed this hard at a comic in a long time. I'm always a sucker for those "evil twin"-type stories. Kill-Cat's continued spoofing of Batman (I loved the bat smashing against the window!) and Kid Avenger's ongoing adjustment to our time period is always fun to watch.

John Cleary's art is obviously heavily influenced by Todd McFarlane's. That said, I think it's great that he got to draw Spawn in this first issue for two reasons. One is that it's a great attention-drawer to this title. Two: Since nobody else is doing it, including Todd, someone ought to draw McFarlane-style. I'm looking forward to seeing John's takes on the other superheroes of the Image universe almost as much as I used to wait for Todd's rendition of the next Marvel villain or hero.

Since the debate is raging on in the Star mini-series, I just wanted to add my two cents regarding Deadly Duo. I'd rather not see Deadly Duo come out monthly. A series like this could easily get repetitious and boring fast if it were there every month. A series of mini-series is a better idea. It gives us something to look forward to. Also, you wouldn't drain the guest-star pool so quickly. Besides, my wallet needs all the help it can get since the paper prices increased.

Wow—five Highbrow books in one month! What fun! Until next month!

Augie DeBlicke Jr.,
North Haledon, NJ

A series of mini-series' is the likely program at this time. Much as I like the guys there's only so much abuse a guy can take! There will be a new ongoing title added to my plate early next year but it isn't anybody you'd expect. Expect details soon...

—Erik Larsen

Next: Wildstorm writer Jeff Mariotte brings his considerable writing skills along with Gen 13's Grunge to the pages of the Deadly Duo! Guest starring nearly every major bad guy in the Image universe! This one has it all! (And this time we mean it!)